Instructor: Daniel J. Zapp, Ph.D.
Email: dzapp@masonlive.gmu.edu (preferred)
Office: David King 1020P (Cognition, Affect & Temperament Lab)
Office Hours: Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm or by appointment
Office Phone: (703) 993-2241

Objectives: Through the course of this semester students will develop an understanding of adolescents’ cognitive, biological, psychological and emotional development. Students will be given a better understanding of culture specific and current issues involved with adolescence with the hopes of developing sensitivity to these issues. Students will also be given the opportunity to further examine the developmental issues of adolescence that are of particular interest to them.

Technology: Students will be expected to access and use Blackboard on a regular basis (courses.gmu.edu). Important class information, such as the syllabus, grades and assignments will be posted here. To access Blackboard, students should use their George Mason email ID and password. In addition, students should check their GMU email account regularly. Be sure to check that new messages can be received and that you are not over the message limit.

Grading: Exams: 40%, Specialized Project: 20%, Weekly Questions: 20%, Discussion Leading/Participation: 20%

Exams: There will be 3 non-cumulative exams and 1 cumulative final exam based on the readings and lectures throughout the semester. Any one exam is optional as I will only use the three highest exam grades in my final calculations. Because of this, no make-up exams will be given.

Specialized Project: Topics related to adolescent development, such as bullying, teen pregnancy, and juvenile justice, are some of the real issues faced by today’s adolescents. I want you to pick a topic from the course that interests you, research that topic, and present it in the medium you feel is most appropriate. You can work alone or in groups of up to 5 students on this project and be as creative as you would like. HOWEVER, all projects/groups need to planned ahead of time and written plans (2-3 pages) need to be approved by me, they are due on October 25th. I will provide you with my specific expectations for all project plans.

Weekly Questions: It is important that students come to class prepared each week to learn and be engaged. There will be a lecture portion and a discussion portion to class each week. Preparation for class includes reading and contemplating relevant text before class
each week. By **Monday at 5 pm each week**, students are required to post a thoughtful question that could be raised in discussion in response to that week’s reading. Basically, prove you read the material for the week and thought about it. Effective discussions require that students are actively engaged and extremely respectful.

**Discussion Leading/Participation:** Students are expected to come to as many classes as possible, ask questions, and participate in the discussions. Some assignments will be handed out during class and will be due before the end of class. These assignments cannot be made up. A portion of this grade will also be determined by how well the student leads the discussion on their assigned topic for one week. This will include a 1 page written portion to be emailed to me beforehand describing how the student plans to direct/inspire engagement and discussion.

**Extra Credit:** Students can obtain extra credit by participating in experiments sponsored by the GMU Psychology Department (http://gmu.sonasystems.com/). Each hour of recorded participation will raise your final grade by .5%. You will receive credit for six hours **maximum** or a 3% increase in your final grade. This is entirely optional and can only increase your grade. Other extra credit opportunities may arise at my discretion.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- **A+= 97-100%**
- **A=93-96%**
- **A- =90-92%**
- **B+=87-89%**
- **B=83-86%**
- **B- =80-82%**
- **C+=77-79%**
- **C=73-76%**
- **C- =70-72%**
- **D= 60-69%**
- **F= <60%**

**Tentative Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings / Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Syllabus; Introduction; Biological Foundations</td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>Cognitive Foundations</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Self Identity and Self Esteem</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 20</td>
<td>Gender and Development</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>Family Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Friends and Peers</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>School Environment</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Cultural Beliefs</td>
<td><strong>Media Project Plan Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Any changes to the schedule/assignments will be raised in class and updated on the syllabus on Blackboard.

**George Mason Honor Code:** Students are expected to comply with the GMU Honor Code by pledging not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. All work turned in for a grade must be completed individually by the student, but students are encouraged to form study groups and learn the material together, such as when preparing for exams. Information regarding the Honor Code and what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found in the 2010-11 University catalog or online at the following website: [http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/](http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/). The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

**Disability Help:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Add/Drop Deadlines:**
- Last day to Add – 9/6/11
- Last day to Drop – 9/30/11

Students can schedule appointments to meet with an academic advisor by calling 703-993-1384. GMU Psychology website: [http://psychology.gmu.edu](http://psychology.gmu.edu).